

UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

4 OCTOBER 2018

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Sacramento – Feds in Sacramento Launch New Effort Against Darkweb Drug Sales

(U) Agents in Sacramento operating as part of the newly formed Northern California Illicit Digital Economy Task Force targeted two suspects in the group's first case to thwart online drug sales. The vendor was known as "CokeWave," would mail with return addresses like "Amazon Logistics," "Hobby Lobby" or "Marvel Hobbies," priority mail flat rate boxes with vacuum-sealed Mylar bags containing cocaine and marijuana. Federal agents had ordered them online from the "Dream Marketplace."

SOURCE: 2 October 2018, [The Sacramento Bee](#)

(U) San Francisco – CEO Pleads Guilty to Conspiring to Sell Encrypted Phones to Mexico TCO

(U) Vincent Ramos, CEO of Phantom Secure, took Blackberry phones, stripped them of their cameras, microphones and GPS and then installed encryption software in order to create a secure phone, has pleaded guilty to conspiring with drug cartels. Ramos was arrested back in March following an FBI investigation in which American, Canadian and Australian undercover agents posed as drug traffickers and made it plain they intended to use the phones to carry out illegal activity. The Feds also persuaded a convicted drug trafficker that worked for the Mexican Sinaloa drug cartel and who was a customer of Phantom Secure to act as a witness against Ramos.

SOURCE: 3 October 2018, [The Register](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) California – US Coast Guard Seizes 11 Tons of Cocaine in August and September

(U) San Diego – US Coast Guard crews seized 11 tons of cocaine from smugglers off the coasts of Mexico, Central and South America in August and September, officials said. The cocaine was seized in operations by three Coast Guard cutters, the Stratton, Seneca and Active from late August to mid-September. Coast Guard officials say the seizures take significant financial resources away from organized crime.

SOURCE: 3 October 2018, [ABC7](#)

(U) Arizona – US CBP Arrest 164 Undocumented Migrants Near San Luis

(U) San Luis – Yuma Border Patrol agents arrested two large groups of undocumented migrants within hours of each other near San Luis on 2 October, the latest in a string of arrests made involving large groups found crossing into Arizona's southwest desert since June, officials said. Just before midnight on 2 October, agents apprehended a group of 108 undocumented migrants about a half-mile west of the San Luis Port of Entry in southwest Arizona, according to US Customs and Border Protection. Five hours later, agents were one mile west of the San Luis border entry when they seized 58 more undocumented migrants, the report says. There were 88 children between the groups with some being as young as 3 months old, according to the release. All were being processed for immigration violations.

SOURCE: 3 October 2018, [AZCentral](#)

UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Form # 1168-442e-b407-de1a8c242c14

UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**(U) NATIONAL****(U) South Carolina – Shooting Spree Leaves One Officer Dead, Six Wounded**

(U) Charleston – Seven law enforcement officers were shot, one fatally, when a gunman unleashed a hail of fire on police from inside a home yesterday near Florence, South Carolina, sparking a two-hour siege that ended with the suspect's arrest, authorities said. Details of the shooting and how it ended remain sketchy. Florence County Sheriff Kenney Boone said several of his deputies came under attack as they tried to serve an otherwise routine search warrant in the Vintage Place subdivision on the city's western edge. Withering gunfire continued as scores of police converged on the area amid reports of an "active shooter" and deployed armored personnel carriers to provide cover for the wounded and move them from harm's way, officials said.

SOURCE: 3 October 2018, [Reuters](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL**(U) Mexico – Shooting at Juarez Restaurant Wounds Five State Police**

(U) Juarez – Gunmen wounded five Chihuahua state police investigators in an attack inside a Juárez restaurant on the evening of 1 October, officials said. The state attorney general's office reported that the investigators were hospitalized with wounds that were not believed to be life threatening. The state attorney general's office said that a large-scale search for the attackers was underway. A week ago, narco banners signed "Nuevo Cartel de Juárez" (New Juárez Cartel) were hung in the Juárez area threatening state police leaders and accusing them of working for the Sinaloa drug cartel's Gente Nueva drug-trafficking organization, according to local news reports.

SOURCE: 3 October 2018, [El Paso Times](#)

(U) Mexico – Turf Battle over Fuel Theft Racket Causes Surge in Violence

(U) Mexico City – A cartel turf battle for control of a lucrative fuel-theft racket has resulted in a surge of homicides in recent months in Guanajuato, which currently ranks as Mexico's second most violent state. The Jalisco Nueva Generacion and recently created Santa Rosa de Lima drug cartels are locked in a dispute over control of an illegal fuel market that has become very profitable, security expert Roberto Valladares told EFE yesterday.

SOURCE: 3 October 2018, [EFE](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.**(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV, OR CALL 916-636-2900.**

Warning: This document is the exclusive property of the State Threat Assessment Center (STAC) and is UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY (U//FOUO). It contains information that may be exempt from public release under the California Public Records Act (Govt. Code Sec. 6250-6270). It is to be controlled, stored, handled, transmitted, distributed, and disposed of in accordance with STAC policy relating to U//FOUO information and is not to be released to the public, the media, or other personnel who do not have a valid "need-to-know" without prior approval of an authorized STAC official. No portion of this report should be furnished to the media, either in written or verbal form.

This document contains excerpts of suspicious activities and incidents of interest to the STAC as obtained from open and unclassified sources.